



# *The Old Ironsides Report*

Wednesday, April 21, 2004



## 55th PSB Soldiers takes over division's postal services

**Story and photo by Sgt. Shauna McRoberts, 1AD PAO**  
BAGHDAD, Iraq – Perhaps it contains photos of a baby enjoying his first birthday party, or a crayon drawing of flowers from your six-year old. It could be a box of Mom's homemade cookies or a subscription to your favorite magazine. Maybe it's a note written with a sweeping hand and smells of perfume.

Whatever it is, if it's important to a 1st Armored Division Soldier, it's important to the Soldiers of 1st Armored Division's 55th Personnel Support Battalion who have taken on a new mission: running the division's postal system.

During the first year of 1AD's deployment, all mail was handled by U.S. Army Reserve postal units, but after those units redeployed, 55th PSB stepped up to the task.

"Even though the reserve postal Soldiers have left, we still have a mission to do and we are going to do it to the fullest extent of our capability," said Lt. Col. Brenda Andrews, 55th PSB commander.

Approximately 35 Soldiers are working in the postal detachment. They are responsible for the division's Baghdad International Airport post office.

These Soldiers -- used to jobs as evaluations clerks and reassignment specialists -- are now in charge of sorting, inspecting and distributing thousands of pounds of incoming and outgoing mail.

Since most of these Soldiers have had no formal postal training — usually a five-week course is required to become a postal clerk — they went through an intensive training period to get them ready for their new mission.

"The training went really well and the Soldiers picked it up really quickly," said 1st Lt. Maria Auer, a platoon leader with 55th PSB's postal detachment. "It's been a smooth transition."

"The mission is going great," said Staff Sgt. Monolito Brown, a personnel noncommissioned with C Det., 55th PSB, now working as a postal NCO. "It's been a challenge, but we are meeting that challenge. I think it is a good experience for everyone."

According to 1st Lt. Meghan Wilmore, the postal detachment's executive officer, the postal clerks understand the importance of getting the mail out to the Soldiers.

"We are doing something that is essential to the morale of the division," she said. "The most important thing we can do for Soldiers is make sure they are getting their letters and packages from home."

Wilmore added that incoming mail to the division's



**Spc. Jose Garcia, an information systems specialist with Detachment D, 55th Personnel Support Battalion, helps tape up a box for a Soldier at 1st Armored Division's post office on Baghdad International Airport. Garcia is one of 35 Soldiers from 55th PSB now charged with running 1st Armored Division's postal system.**

Soldiers never stopped and their mailing addresses have remained the same.

Family and friends can help ensure mail gets to their Soldiers by writing everything clearly on packages and letters, she said. Addresses need to include the Soldier's full name and rank, complete unit name, unit number and zip code.

Generally, mail coming from Germany takes about 10 days and mail coming from the United States takes about 14 days to arrive.

Currently, the 1AD post office is still offering its regular services and is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. On Saturdays and Sundays, the post office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mail going through the Military Postal System (MPS) can be mailed everyday, but services that require payments such as registered, certified or insured mail or mail going to the United States, can only be sent on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

However, the postal detachment plans to soon offer a full range of mail services on a daily basis, she said.

According to Wilmer, the Soldiers of 55th PSB will continue the postal mission as long as 1AD is on the ground.

"We will be here as long as the division needs us."

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## **NEWS...**

### **Attack on U.S.-Run Baghdad Jail Kills 22**

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Insurgents fired 12 mortars into Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison Tuesday, killing 22 detainees and injuring 92, U.S. military officials said.

To the west in Fallujah, meanwhile, Iraqi security forces and civilians who fled days of street fighting with Marines began to return Tuesday in a critical test of an agreement between U. S. officials and local leaders to fend off an all-out assault by American forces.

### **Congress Opens Hearings on Iraq Policy**

WASHINGTON (AP) - A top-level Bush administration official, questioned sharply by a congressional panel on the difficult U.S. campaign with mounting casualties in Iraq, asserted anew Tuesday that Saddam Hussein was a brutal dictator who had to be deposed.

But Sen. Edward M. Kennedy interrupted Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz's statement at a contentious hearing of the Armed Services Committee, calling the Defense Department official's testimony "somewhat disingenuous."

### **Powell Rebuts Arab Criticism Over Israel**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Responding to Arab complaints, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Tuesday the Bush administration was determined to launch a Palestinian state next year and that any decision to keep Israeli population centers on the West Bank would require Palestinian consent.

But Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, whose country has a peace treaty with Israel, said hatred of Americans in the Arab world had reached new heights over the war in Iraq and Washington's continued support of Israel. Mubarak told the French newspaper *Le Monde* "there exists today a hatred never equaled in the region."

### **Lawyer: Guantanamo Is a 'Lawless Enclave'**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The United States has created a "lawless enclave" at a military base in Cuba where more than 600 men from 44 countries are being held without access to American courts, a lawyer for the men told the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

Attorney John Gibbons said "it's been plain for 215 years" that people in federal detention may file petitions in U.S. courts.

### **Columbine Marks Anniversary of Shooting**

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) - Somber students, parents and neighbors went to the Columbine High School campus Tuesday to remember those killed five years ago in the worst school shooting in U.S. history.

"I just want today to be a peaceful day to remember and to hope for the future," said Kallen Dunn, 36, who went with her son, Michael, a 15-year-old Columbine student.

## **In other news...**

### **'Doonesbury' Character to Lose Leg in Iraq**

By ELIZABETH McKINLEY, Associated Press Writer  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) -- A main character in the "Doonesbury" comic strip will lose a leg while fighting in Iraq, one of two strips published this week that feature soldiers getting injured in the war.

In Monday's "Doonesbury," B.D., a football coach-turned-soldier, was injured after being reactivated in the Army at the end of 2002, following a losing football season.

Later this week, he will wake up to find his left leg amputated, according to Universal Press Syndicate, the strip's distributor.

"Doonesbury" creator Garry Trudeau said he wanted to illustrate the sacrifices American soldiers are making.

"It's a task any writer should approach with great humility, but I think it's worth doing," Trudeau said. "We are at war, and we can't lose sight of the hardships war inflicts on individual lives."

Trudeau said B.D. would learn to deal with his injury "probably the same way so many wounded vets seem to - with gratitude for having had one's life spared, empathy and respect for those who have suffered worse, and a grim sense of humor indispensable to fending off despair."

About 10 newspapers have called Universal Press with concerns about the strip, primarily with language the character uses after learning his leg is gone, company spokeswoman Kathie Kerr said.

The strip, which appears in 1,400 newspapers nationwide, has a long history of addressing difficult topics since Trudeau started it at Yale University in 1968.

### **New Darth Vader Costume Shown on DVD**

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Fans can get a first look at the new Darth Vader costume from the 2005 "Star Wars: Episode III" prequel on the upcoming DVD collection of the original trilogy, Lucasfilm announced Monday.

The first three "Star Wars" films debut for the first time in digital format on Sept. 21.

The Darth Vader featurette promises an interview with creator George Lucas discussing how Jedi warrior Anakin Skywalker became the fearsome space villain.

It also will show behind-the-scenes footage of actors Hayden Christensen, who plays Anakin, and Ewan McGregor, who plays Obi-Wan Kenobi, engaged in the forthcoming film's climactic lightsaber duel.

He said the DVD would hold back, however, on most of the details, which are being saved for the final installment in the prequel trilogy, set for release in theaters on May 19, 2005.

Besides the three movies, subtitled "A New Hope," "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi," the DVD collection also will include documentaries about the history of the laser-sword lightsabers, an exploration of how some of the famous alien creatures were inspired and created.

## **Thought for the day...**

### **First Things First**

Some time in the early part of the Civil War a minister said to President Lincoln that he "hoped the Lord was on our side."

"I am not at all concerned about that," replied Mr. Lincoln, "for I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right, but it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation should be on the Lord's side."

**April 21, 2004**

## April 21, 753: B.C. ROME FOUNDED

According to the legend, Romulus and Remus were the sons of Rhea Silvia, the daughter of King Numitor of Alba Longa. Alba Longa was a mythical city located in the Alban Hills southeast of what would become Rome. Before the birth of the twins, Numitor was deposed by his younger brother Amulius, who forced Rhea to become a vestal virgin so that she would not give birth to rival claimants to his title. However, Rhea was impregnated by the war god Mars and gave birth to Romulus and Remus. Amulius ordered the infants drowned in the Tiber, but they survived and washed ashore at the foot of the Palatine hill, where they were suckled by a she-wolf until they were found by the shepherd Faustulus.

To populate his town, Romulus offered asylum to fugitives and exiles. Rome lacked women, however, so Romulus invited the neighboring Sabines to a festival and abducted their women. A war then ensued, but the Sabine women intervened to prevent the Sabine men from seizing Rome. A peace treaty was drawn up, and the communities merged under the joint rule of Romulus and the Sabine king, Titus Tatius. Tatius' early death, perhaps perpetrated by Romulus, left the Roman as the sole king again. After a long and successful rule, Romulus died under obscure circumstances. Many Romans believed he was changed into a god and worshipped him as the deity Quirinus. After Romulus, there were six more kings of Rome, the last three believed to be Etruscans. Around 509 B.C., the Roman republic was established.

In the fifth century B.C., a few Greek historians speculated that Aeneas settled at Rome, which was then still a small city-state. In the fourth century B.C., Rome began to expand within the Italian peninsula, and Romans, coming into greater contact with the Greeks, embraced the suggestion that Aeneas had a role in the foundation of their great city. In the first century B.C., the Roman poet Virgil developed the Aeneas myth in his epic poem the *Aeneid*, which told of Aeneas' journey to Rome. Augustus, the first Roman emperor and emperor during Virgil's time, and Julius Caesar, his great-uncle and predecessor as Roman ruler, were said to be descended from Aeneas.



**THESE SERVICES ARE OFFERED ONLY ON:  
TUESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY: 0900-1600**

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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2004				As of: Tuesday, April 20, 2004 11:08:53 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00			STAR TREK: THE MOTION PICTURE	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		00:00
00:30		HEADLINE NEWS		HEADLINE NEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION					01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):			HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30			EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):		NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	4 QTRS	NHL - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 7: OTTAWA SENATORS VS TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - NIGEL KNOWS BEST	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30	4 QTRS		THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS		CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 2: NY KNICKS @ NEW JERSEY NETS		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - KAMP KRUSTY	BLUE'S CLUES - BLUE'S BOOK NOOK	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - CALL OF THE WILD	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		04:30
05:00			ALLY MCBEAL (TV14): - REACH OUT AND TOUCH	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30		BASEBALL TONIGHT				05:30
06:00			STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - THE BIRTHRIGHT (PT. 2)	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR	06:00
06:30	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 2: DALLAS MAVERICKS @ SACRAMENTO KINGS					06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	NOVA (TVPG): - LIFE AND DEATH IN THE WAR ZONE	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - D-DAY DECEPTIONS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		08:25
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	INSIDE THE NBA	SESAME STREET	STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		09:13
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BLUE'S CLUES - BLUE'S BOOK NOOK		BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - TREATS	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - DANGER: DIRIGIBLES/ENTER THE CHEAPSKATES!		10:30
11:00	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - ADVANCE AUTO PARTS 500	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - NIGEL KNOWS BEST	POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - EPISODE 2	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - THE NEW FRONTIER	AFNEWS ON ASSIGNMENT	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - KAMP KRUSTY	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - CALL OF THE WILD	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30				HEADLINE NEWS		13:30
13:52				PACIFIC REPORT		13:52
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - THE BIRTHRIGHT (PT. 2)	8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - GOODBYE (PT. 1)	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	14:00
14:30	BOSTON MARATHON	JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - HAIR JORDAN		14:30
15:00		TODAY	NOVA (TVPG): - LIFE AND DEATH IN THE WAR ZONE	AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL (TVPG): - EPISODE 8	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - D-DAY DECEPTIONS	THE O.C. (TVPG): - THE TRUTH		16:00
17:00	NHL - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 7: OTTAWA SENATORS @ TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS	BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - TREATS	STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:22				PACIFIC REPORT		17:22
17:30		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - DANGER: DIRIGIBLES/ENTER THE CHEAPSKATES!		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00		POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - EPISODE 2			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - THE NEW FRONTIER		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - NIGEL KNOWS BEST			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:30
20:00	ESPNEWS	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - KAMP KRUSTY	THE FULL MONTY	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:19	BASEBALL TONIGHT					20:19
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - CALL OF THE WILD			20:30
21:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - FIM WORLD SUPERBIKE - RACE 1 (SAN MARINO)	8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - GOODBYE (PT. 1)	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
21:30		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - HAIR JORDAN				21:30
21:45				YOU'VE GOT MAIL		21:45
22:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - FIM WORLD SUPERBIKE - RACE 2 (SAN MARINO)	AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL (TVPG): - EPISODE 8	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - THE BIRTHRIGHT (PT. 2)		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00	SPORTS SPECIAL - SPORTSCENTER NFL DRAFT SPECIAL	THE O.C. (TVPG): - THE TRUTH	NOVA (TVPG): - LIFE AND DEATH IN THE WAR ZONE		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30					INSIDE POLITICS	23:30